29th October, 2004. The Commission has started functioning w.e.f. 21st March, 2005.

KBK districts of Orissa

*407. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) districts of Orissa are among the most backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the amount allocated from the Central Fund for their development in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether any assessment of the progress made in above districts, with the help of this money, had been made; and

(d) if so, the extent of changes that occured in the situation prior to and after the allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) districts of Orissa are being funded through a Special Plan under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) on 100% grant basis. Special Central Assistance of Rs. 200 crore was allocated in Annual Plan 2002-03 and Rs. 250 crore each year in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(c) The Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) study for KBK districts largely relates to impact of other development programmes on KBK districts, prior to 2003. The Special Plan under RSVY was initiated in 2002-03 and has become fully operational from 2003-04. It is too early to have an evaluation study. NABARD have been asked to monitor the pogramme from the current year onwards.

(d) Does not arise.

BSNL and MTNL spendings on advertising and promotional activities

*408. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fund allocated by BSNL and MTNL for marketing of various telecom circles and its utilization during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds used for advertising through Government and private agencies, separately during the last three year with the names of advertising agencies;